

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	8:09CR392
vs.)	
)	PRELIMINARY ORDER
TONY HESSLER and)	OF FORFEITURE
MATTHEW NELSON,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

NOW ON THIS 22nd day of March, 2010, this matter comes on before the Court upon the United States' Motion for Issuance of Preliminary Order of Forfeiture. The Court reviews the record in this case and, being duly advised in the premises, finds as follows:

1. The Defendants have entered into Plea Agreements, whereby they have agreed to plead guilty to Counts III and IV of said Indictment. Count III charges the Defendants with one count of possession of an unregistered firearm, in violation of 26 U.S.C. §§ 5841, 5861(d) and 5871. Count IV of said Indictment sought the forfeiture, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 924(d) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c), of a New England Firearms 12 gauge shotgun, serial # NJ242017, on the basis it was a firearm involved or used in the knowing commission of the offense charged in Count III.

2. By virtue of said pleas of guilty, the Defendants forfeit their interest in the subject property, and the United States should be entitled to possession of said property, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 924(d) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c).

3. The United States' Motion for Issuance of Preliminary Order of Forfeiture should be sustained.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED as follows:

A. The United States' Motion for Issuance of Preliminary Order of Forfeiture is hereby sustained.

B. Based upon Count IV of the Indictment and the Defendants' pleas of guilty, the United States is hereby authorized to seize the New England Firearms 12 gauge shotgun, serial # NJ242017.

C. The Defendants' interest in said property is hereby forfeited to the United States for disposition in accordance with the law, subject to the provisions of 21 U.S.C., § 853(n)(1).

D. The aforementioned forfeited property is to be held by the United States in its secure custody and control.

E. Pursuant to 21 U.S.C., § 853(n)(1), the United States forthwith shall publish for at least thirty consecutive days on an official Government internet site (www.forfeiture.gov) notice of this Order, Notice of Publication evidencing the United States' intent to dispose of the property in such manner as the Attorney General may direct, and notice that any person, other than the Defendants, having or claiming a legal interest in any of the subject forfeited property must file a Petition with the court within thirty days of the final publication of notice or of receipt of actual notice, whichever is earlier.

F. Said published notice shall state the Petition referred to in Paragraph E., above, shall be for a hearing to adjudicate the validity of the Petitioner's alleged interest in the property, shall be signed by the Petitioner under penalty of perjury, and shall set forth the nature and extent of the Petitioner's right, title or interest in the subject property and any additional facts supporting the Petitioner's claim and the relief sought.

G. The United States may also, to the extent practicable, provide direct written notice to any person known to have alleged an interest in the property subject to this Order as a substitute for published notice as to those persons so notified.

H. Upon adjudication of all third-party interests, this Court will enter a Final Order of Forfeiture pursuant to 21 U.S.C., § 853(n), in which all interests will be addressed.

ORDERED this 22nd day of March, 2010.

BY THE COURT:

Richard G. Kopf
United States District Judge